

**THE PHARMACOLOGIC PRINCIPLES OF MEDICAL PRACTICE—A Textbook on Pharmacology and Therapeutics for Medical Students, Physicians, and the Members of the Professions Allied to Medicine—8th Edition—** John C. Krantz, Jr., Professor of Pharmacology, School of Medicine, University of Maryland; and C. Jelleff Carr, Chief, Pharmacology Unit, Psychopharmacology Service Center, National Institute of Mental Health. The Williams & Wilkins Company, Baltimore 2, Maryland, 1961. 1498 pages, \$15.00.

The 5th edition of this popular textbook has been increased to 1,498 pages, 9 parts and 60 chapters. Such an increase in volume has been made necessary by the rapid advances in development of pharmacological agents even though the authors have shortened, or in some cases, deleted discussion of some of the older and now less used drugs. In view of the fact that the course in pharmacology is usually taught before students have any clinical experience, or indeed much training in pathology, the authors have used considerable space to lay the physiological and clinical background for therapy. One may wonder whether it is justifiable to discuss clinical and physiological principles in a textbook in pharmacology, in view of the fact that the teacher can do this from the lecture platform. The rising cost of books would certainly justify authors limiting themselves to the subject of the book. However, to the reader, such material is often of great help, and the authors have shown discrimination and skill in presenting this type of background. The extensive experience in teaching and research, and talent for an interesting and clear style of writing makes this book popular both for student and practitioner. The new neuro- and psychopharmacological agents have been discussed with critical insight into their actions and uses. An example of this is found in their section on the monoamine oxidase inhibitors, beginning on page 1,036. The historical interest of the authors is shown in the many photographs of pioneers in pharmacology.

CLINTON H. THIENES, M.D.

\* \* \*

**STAPES SURGERY FOR OTOSCLEROSIS**—Victor Goodhill, M.D., Clinical Professor of Surgery (Otology), School of Medicine, University of California, Los Angeles; Chairman, Department of Otolaryngology, Cedars of Lebanon Hospital, Los Angeles. Paul B. Hoeber, Inc., Medical Division of Harper & Brothers, 49 East 33rd Street, New York 16, N. Y., 1961. 212 pages, \$11.50.

Since Rosen introduced his stapes mobilization operation, a procedure which was first proposed by Miot and others more than half a century ago, the changes in stapes surgery for otosclerosis have been so rapid, that new instruments and catalogues have become obsolete almost before they have been finalized. One wonders, then, how Dr. Goodhill had the courage to write a book on stapes surgery, knowing well that it might be passé before the ink became dry. Reading the book, then, after "wondering," one realizes why it came to pass, for it serves a very useful purpose. It has basic information that is quite stable, so it does not matter that the techniques it talks about today may not be the ones used tomorrow.

As the author has said, this is largely a personal document based on his experiences with approximately 3,000 patients, and is, therefore, biased by his own case material and techniques. The author has, however, listed the excellent contributions of many colleagues in his 126 bibliographic references.

The chapters on the pathology of stapes ankylosis and physiological considerations of the hearing loss produced are "meaty" and trimmed down; in fact, throughout the book, there is a notable absence of circumlocution—the author has a knack of getting to the point.

The chapter on differential diagnosis, labelled "Pseudo-Otosclerosis" is splendid. The author not only relates all the conditions simulating otosclerosis, but illustrates each situation with a case report, a diagram, and a pre and postoperative audiogram.

The chapter on surgical techniques is thorough. It demonstrates, with diagrams, the evolution of techniques: Indirect mobilization, anterior crurotomy, direct footplate approach, partial stapedectomy and total stapedectomy, with the various metal and plastic prostheses and grafting materials as vein, fat, connective tissue and perichondrium. Postoperative management is carefully detailed.

In the final chapter, the author gives illustrative case histories showing both good and bad results, including late complications. At first, it was disturbing to note that the hearing results were reported by "Nomograms" instead of conventional audiograms; however, a study of the section on nomographic interpretation made it easy to "convert," and revealed that the charts not only show the progress in hearing improvement at surgery, but the followup record as well.

This book "reads well" from cover to cover, and is highly recommended. Should someone other than an otologist desire information on stapes surgery, this is an ideal book. One does not have to "wade" into it to get the facts. It is excellent, too, for one training in this surgery, for it will furnish him with much factual information, and is a good reference book. For the "veteran," it is also good, for certainly he can learn something from the author in relation to his own experience.

SHIRLEY H. BARON, M.D.

\* \* \*

**COMPARATIVE EPIDEMIOLOGY OF MENTAL DISORDERS**—Edited by Paul H. Hoch, M.D., and Joseph Zubin, Ph.D., Grune & Stratton, 381 Park Avenue South, New York 16, N. Y., 1961. 290 pages, \$6.75.

This book is a compilation of the proceedings of the 49th Annual Meeting of the American Psychopathological Association, held in New York City, February, 1959. It thus contains not the exhaustive study of a single theme, but rather a diversification of approaches, studies and analyses of data ranging from genetics and prenatal influences through field studies, hospital statistics and surveys of old age. Scandinavia, Britain, Germany, Canada and the United States are the source material of these papers. As might be expected some of the reading is stimulating and enjoyable. Some, at best, a tough piece of meat to digest if you are not sophisticated in statistics, biometrics, social and psychiatric field studies, etc. The reader in the latter category is again reminded of the complexity and difficulty in sociocultural epidemiologic study.

The significant theme apparent in most of the papers is the increasing recognition of the impact of sociocultural factors on etiology, incidence, treatment, prognosis and prevention of mental disorders. However, this is not a book to read from which to draw definite conclusions nor to help formulate definitive concepts. All the more significant, it is a book to read for the discovery and development of hypotheses and ideas which will lead to more definite studies and research. The main value of this book is in the questions which it raises and their implication for future research. The horizons viewed therein may lead current and future investigators to fruitful lands. Medical and psychiatric educators particularly have an interest in exploring this and similar books in order to stimulate and broaden the perspective of those they teach.

THOMAS V. HOYER, M.D.